GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:756
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
LOSSES TO POTATO GROWERS IN KARNATAKA
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a severe price crash, distress sale of potato leading to huge losses to the potato growers of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether some potato growers/farmers have committed suicide because they could not repay the loan which they had taken from the banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal to seek approval for market intervention scheme from Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Centre has taken any action to save the farmers from debt; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. There is no price crash of potato. Wholesale prices of potato in July, 2001 in different mandies of Karnataka ranged between Rs.650 − Rs.750 per qtl., while the retail prices at Tumkur and Hubli ruled between Rs.12-10 per kg. in the first week of July 2001. Even at national level the wholesale price Index of potato as on 7.7.2001 was 95.5 per cent higher over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) & (e): No proposal from the Government of Karnataka for procurement of potatoes under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) has so far been received during the current year 2001-2002. However, a proposal dated 6th Feb., 2001 was received from the Government of Karnataka for procurement of potatoes for Kharif season with retrospective effect from 28.11.2000 to 5.1.2001. Since the Government of Karnataka had implemented the MIS on their own without approval or informing the central Government, the proposal was not approved with retrospective effect. Another proposal dated 22nd Feb.,2001 from the Govt. of Karnataka for procurement of Rabi potato from 10th Feb., 2001 to 31st March, 2001 was received without providing details required for taking a decision in this matter. Accordingly, the MIS for procurement of potatoes could not be implemented in Karnataka.

(f) & (g): Information on crop wise requirement of credit is not maintained by the Government. However during the current year, the Government has proposed to increase credit to farmers from Rs.53,500 crores in 2000-01 to Rs.64,000 crores in 2001-02.